

the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame.

But in 2005, he came down with multiple sclerosis, which was not treatable by conventional therapy. He had to go out of the country for some stem cell treatments. Those were successful. He moved back to this country, continued to live in Ennis, Texas, and stayed active in the community. And about 2 weeks ago, the school board and school superintendent named him, again, to be the head football coach at Ennis High School.

He is a very great coach, but he is also a greater man. He is very Christian. He is good with the kids. He is just an absolute stellar individual.

Congratulations to Coach Sam Harrell, who is, once again, head football coach for the Ennis Lions, who have five State championships in their history.

□ 1700

WE ARE FAILING TO LIVE UP TO OUR CORE VALUES

(Mr. MOULTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, America is keeping kids in cages. America is keeping kids in cages.

Many people across our country have risen to say that this is not who we are. It doesn't represent our values, our ideals, or our Constitution.

But the sad reality is that today, this is who we are. You are an American. I am an American. It is fellow Americans who are ripping toddlers from their mothers and fathers and guarding them in steel cages.

And in truth, we have done this before. We herded American Indians into reservations. We turned our backs on Jews fleeing for their lives from the Holocaust. We ripped children from their parents when we sold them as slaves.

But we all thought we had learned our lessons, moved past those hateful times. We have been on a march to grow into a country with the courage to live up to our values and serve as a beacon of hope for the world, not repeat the darkest parts of our history.

The families in these detention centers aren't fleeing to the U.S. to take our jobs, they are running for their lives. They are fleeing a world of racism, ransom, murder, where their sons are being forced into violent gangs, and their daughters are being stolen on their way to school and prostituted as sex slaves.

A nation that fails to learn the lessons of history, that fails to live up to its core values, that can't abide by the rights enshrined in its own Constitution, is not strong, Mr. Speaker, it is weak.

Today, we are stealing kids from their parents and we are weak.

And although it is this administration's policy that is directly respon-

sible for this disgusting practice, we are all guilty as fellow Americans so long as it goes on.

Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. These are our core values. Let's live up to them today.

MEMORIALIZING MARTIN MARTINEZ

(Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize Martin Martinez and to draw attention to his story and his struggle.

Martin lived for over 30 years here in the United States. He worked hard, paid taxes, learned English. He had two beautiful American children, one of them, Maria, worked for the people of the United States, the House of Representatives, and for me.

Martin was a good American, but he was also an undocumented immigrant, and even though he was putting himself at risk and he knew it, he and his wife self-reported to the government to declare their status. They followed every instruction they were given, and they stayed out of any kind of trouble, but they were still deported.

Soon after the deportation, Martin paid the ultimate price and lost his life on February 27.

Now, he had existing heart problems, but his daughter, Maria, will tell you, "This administration separated my family and my dad died of a broken heart."

Maria and her brother are now forced to grieve alone, for their mother was also deported and has been barred from reentering the United States for a decade.

Maria and the rest of the Martinez family are forced to suffer the real human cost of this administration's policies. And it is stories like Martin's that so clearly demonstrate the need for comprehensive immigration reform.

Martin's story is the story of millions of immigrants. It is our story. And it is our responsibility to learn from it and to act. We can't bring back Martin Martinez, but we can do something to heal our country.

I AM STANDING FOR THE CHILDREN

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, America is listening to the pain of so many of the Members, my colleagues, as we have experienced the devastation of watching families torn apart from their babies, their toddlers, their young children.

I spent my Sunday and Monday, Father's Day, looking at those who just simply wanted an opportunity, holding baby Roger in my hands, whose mother

had died and whose sister was ripped away from him and prosecuted criminally for entering the United States. Or baby Leah, who was 1 year old and was obviously fussy and had been in such a way that she was experiencing trauma.

And yet, we now have this executive order that looks as if the President has done something that he could not have done a few hours ago, which is picking up the telephone and telling the people at the border to cease and desist.

Those are good people who work there. They are only following orders. But this is a tragic executive order—it has no heart to it—because what it does is, yes, it keeps the families together in a criminal posture and houses them in the same conditions, now on military bases, rather than allowing them to proceed through court proceedings. In my southern district of Texas we have 50,000 cases in backlog because, as I go to the Budget Committee, this administration refuses to give us more judges.

Well, they are trying to open one of these places in my congressional district. And I want to congratulate Houston, because Houston is standing for humanity; it is standing, as the Pope has said, because everyone deserves dignity.

This executive order is not worth the paper it is written on because it could have been a phone call, not a demand that it is all of Congress' fault.

But I am standing for the children, and we are going to save them.

THE IMPORTANCE OF NATURAL GAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this House Energy and Commerce Special Order is to talk about America's energy dominance, especially with natural gas.

This conversation is very important today because the World Gas Conference happens in this town, Washington, D.C., next week. What a difference a decade makes.

When I joined Texas Senator Phil Gramm's office in 1998, one ugly word described American oil and natural gas. That word was peak.

Experts, here and around the world, said America had peaked in our production of oil and natural gas.

Every year, we would buy more oil and gas from foreign sources, and we had to buy oil from some companies that didn't like us very much and hurt us by taking oil away.

No one cared about a group called OPEC until they stopped the flow of oil that they had and that we needed.

OPEC was led by Arab nations who were upset that we resupplied our best ally ever, Israel, when they were invaded by their neighbors. It happened

in 1973. It happened again in 1979. Gas prices doubled overnight.

In 1979, I had just gotten my driver's license. My job was to take our family cars and fill them with gas that had gotten down to a quarter of a gallon in the tank. I got in line for 45 minutes or maybe as long as an hour. We could only purchase 20 gallons of gasoline. We could only buy that gasoline on days per your license plate. If the last number was odd, buy gas on an odd day. Even, even day.

Heck, a guy on a lawn mower was behind me getting gas one day. That is how bad it was just one decade ago.

But thanks to the American private sector and our ingenuity, hydraulic fracturing and directional drilling, America has a whole new world order for energy. We have global energy dominance, and that is what we are here to talk about today, that special happening right now in America.

Right now, our country, America, is the number one producer of oil and gas in the entire world. Our natural gas increasingly powers our homes and our businesses, making our air cleaner and our economy stronger, especially on the Gulf Coast, where I am from.

OPEC knows their days of controlling the market and punishing people for bad actions they perceive are over. They have right now, as we speak, flooded the market with oil to try to keep prices low and stop America's newfound energy dominance. They have tried and they have failed.

We had more oil and gas than they had. We have that gas, and now we are letting the free market take over, and we have a lot more who can tap that in a moment's notice.

And this doesn't just mean affordable power and gasoline at home. It also means American jobs.

One study last year said over 800,000 jobs in the gas and oil industry came to our country for this renaissance. This renaissance, this dominance, has allowed us to export natural gas and oil for the first time since 1975. Over 40 years not on the market.

We are going from basically zero exports of natural gas to 10 billion cubic feet per day in exports.

It wasn't long ago we were building terminals to import natural gas, and now we are reversing them to export natural gas. That is what American energy dominance looks like.

And as we say in Texas, there is a new sheriff in the global natural gas market, and that sheriff's name is Uncle Sam.

And these huge exports of natural gas are helping America export liquid freedom to friends we want to help, and hurt those who use energy as a weapon to control other countries.

For too long, a former KGB spy and Russia's de facto dictator, Vladimir Putin, has controlled nations that escaped the Iron Curtain when the Berlin Wall fell in 1991. Nations like Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, and Ukraine were still beholden to what TED POE

calls the Napoleon of Siberia, Mr. Putin.

If they did not do what Mr. Putin wanted, they lost all power. Summers were scorching; winters were bitter cold. Comply or punish. You are not free.

America, right now, is taking these weapons away from Mr. Putin. Cheap natural gas takes away the hooks of tyranny.

This is important even for countries that don't buy our gas because our gas is making the market a true market with competition and lower prices. That market puts a lid on bad actors and what they can charge.

But sadly, this explosion, this dominance, caught the previous administration by surprise and we were way behind the curve in getting our natural gas on the global market.

Good news: The Energy and Commerce Committee stepped up in this Congress to make sure we get these exports going and these projects approved quickly.

□ 1715

We made sure they are safe, great for our environment, with minimal impacts, and we take all of the local concerns into account. But red tape and these silly delays hurt us. We have stopped that and have got a free market going in so many important ways.

In this Congress, the 115th Congress, we are using this new opportunity to expand our Nation's energy dominance with natural gas. This means, for the whole world, cheaper, cleaner power, the jobs that come with that, and it brings American jobs back home from overseas.

Right now, America is exporting freedom to friends and allies and taking away a monopoly from bad actors. Get ready, world. Uncle Sam is coming to your neighborhood, your hometown.

I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Texas, the vice chairman of the Energy Subcommittee, who has just been a real leader on energy issues across the country and around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to talk about the shale revolution and what it has really meant not only for jobs and growth in America, but energy worldwide. The shale revolution and the dramatic increase in domestic oil and natural production has really been remarkable. American innovation did this. Technological advancements did this. It transformed the United States from an importer of natural gas to a major exporter.

The positive effects, the enormous effects are being felt around the globe. OPEC and the established gas suppliers like Russia, they all bet against the United States. And guess what. They have lost.

Now, as American energy exports reach world markets, they are losing

their stranglehold on supply and prices. U.S. LNG exports are going to markets across Asia, North America, Europe, and, yes, to even some of our allies in the Middle East.

The rise of the U.S. as a global energy superpower means that energy markets are more open. They are more transparent and competitive than ever before. And we are creating great American jobs here. We really are. If you look at these regions where these finds have been discovered and now are being developed, people are getting good wages, good jobs. They are building out, and it makes us stronger.

President Trump didn't want to say, "We want to be energy independent"; he wanted to say, "America is going to be energy dominant." And that is what we are becoming. That is a good thing.

By the way, as we find this new natural gas and we build out more generating facilities, we are also reducing our carbon emissions. We are below the 1995 levels. I don't think there is a country on the planet that has reduced emissions more than the United States during this period, so we are making progress there, too.

The increase in LNG exports around the globe over the past 2 years will help us and is the result of continuing expansion in the U.S. LNG export capacity. Two LNG projects, Sabine Pass in Louisiana and Cove Point in Maryland, have been online since 2016. That has increased the U.S. LNG export to 3.6 billion—that is with a B—cubic feet per day.

There are four more projects scheduled to come online in the next couple of years: Elba Island LNG in Georgia and Cameron LNG in Louisiana in 2018, and Freeport LNG and Corpus Christi LNG in Texas in 2019. Once completed, U.S. LNG export capacity is expected to reach 9.6 billion cubic feet per day by the end of 2019. That is the end of next year.

Meanwhile, in my home State of Oregon, work continues on the Jordan Cove LNG export facility in Coos Bay.

As export capacity continues to increase, the United States is projected to become the third largest LNG exporter in the world by 2020, following closely behind Australia and Qatar.

As chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I have prioritized a pro-growth, pro-consumer, all-of-the-above, and, frankly, all-of-the-below approach to energy that includes a focus on natural gas. We have held a number of hearings.

We have looked into the overall impacts of natural gas development, the enormous number of new jobs, good family wages, middle class jobs and economic growth, the increased use of natural gas for power generation, the reduction in carbon emissions, the need for new infrastructure, and the advantages for domestic manufacturing and global competitiveness.

We have looked at all of that in the Energy and Commerce Committee, and my colleagues, many of whom you will

hear from tonight, Mr. Speaker, have really led on this. My colleague from Texas (Mr. OLSON) has really been a fine leader on the Energy Subcommittee.

I encouraged our Members to work across the aisle. Growing American energy and great-paying jobs should be a bipartisan effort. We need to improve the regulatory process so we can solve some of the challenges that may prevent us from reaching our full American potential.

This is our century. This is the American century, and we are seeing great progress. We cut taxes. We are growing a million jobs and have the lowest unemployment rate in decades. We have more job openings than people to fill them, and a lot of that has to do with energy.

For example, members of the Energy and Commerce Committee have introduced and the House has passed legislation that would modernize the permitting processes for interstate and cross-border natural gas pipelines and LNG export facilities. These bills all passed the House on a bipartisan basis, Republicans and Democrats getting together, getting things done. I am encouraged by the support they are receiving in the Senate, too.

While these bills have not yet been signed into law, the Trump administration is very receptive to our approach to improve coordination and permit reviews and dedicate a single Federal lead agency. Part of the swamp back here is there are so many people, so many agencies, and so many duplicative processes that have been accumulating for decades.

And if you are the innovator who wants to do something new, if you want to grow jobs in your community, your State, your region, you have got to navigate this morass of red tape and regulation and permitting. About the time you think you have got it done, some other agency shows up, and then somebody else and then somebody else, and your enormous investment languishes out there for years and years and years.

We can do better than that. You can maintain all of the important environmental law, but if we have a lead agency, we can find some efficiency.

I think the vice chairman would agree that we might be able to find efficiency in the Federal Government. I think it is possible. And I think with the lead agency, we can.

This one-agency, one-decision process is now being rolled out because of the Trump administration, with a goal to cut down permitting time to 2 years or less. I think you can probably do it faster than that, but, hey, we will take 2 years or less. That is a big win.

Our energy security is stronger today than at any point in America's history, due in large part to natural gas. Natural gas has contributed to jobs and economic development both here in America, here at home, and it is improving the efficiency of our power

generation fleet. It is increasing the competitiveness of our manufacturers who use it as both a fuel and a feedstock. It is strengthening our hand diplomatically, and it is creating jobs, jobs, jobs, good-paying jobs. It is a win-win across the board.

And so I appreciate the vice chairman's leadership on this special time for us to come to the House floor and share the great progress of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the country, the bipartisan work we are doing, and the great innovative future that lies before us.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WALDEN for his comments to remind the American people and the entire world that this American dominance of natural gas has made America's air cleaner for global emissions.

As the chairman knows, America has reduced gas emissions 11 percent in the last decade. I told that to people in India this past March and they were stunned.

How did you guys do that? Our air is so dirty? What should we do?

It is simple: Buy American liquified natural gas.

And they are doing that right now.

The next speaker is a good friend from Ohio, a man who Mr. Putin fears because he has control of what is called the Utica shale play in Ohio.

A man from India, Prime Minister Modi from India, loves BILL JOHNSON from the great State of Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and colleague, Representative PETE OLSON, for partnering with me to colead this Special Order tonight on the benefits of natural gas and liquified natural gas exports, especially as the United States prepares to hold the World Gas Conference next week.

I am honored to share this floor time with Mr. OLSON to talk about this very important topic, and I also want to thank many of my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee for participating in this Special Order tonight to talk about this important topic.

I represent rural eastern and southeastern Ohio, which is no stranger to the benefits of natural gas. My district sits on top of, as Representative OLSON just mentioned, the Utica and the Marcellus shale plays, which have led to a growing interest in new and exciting manufacturing opportunities like ethane cracker plants and ethane storage opportunities.

In fact, one recent report led by Shale Crescent USA and IHS Markit forecasts that this region will supply 37 percent of the Nation's natural gas production by 2040. This same report forecasts that natural gas liquid production from these two plays will increase from 0.53 million barrels per day in 2017 to 1.37 million barrels per day in 2040, an increase of over 150 percent. Other studies predict that the region has suf-

ficient ethane feedstock to support up to five ethane cracker plants.

These opportunities are huge. These are massive construction projects, putting upwards of 10,000 construction workers to work over a 6-year period, with upwards of 1,000 permanent employees once those plants go operational.

Additionally, ethylene projects within the region will have a comparative advantage because of the access to ample supplies of locally produced, low-cost ethane and because of the fact that the region is in close proximity to over two-thirds of U.S. polyethylene consumption. And that is only half the story.

The economic and geopolitical benefits of exporting our excess gas are equally exciting as these benefits are helping to encourage oil and gas activity throughout Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

As you will hear from multiple colleagues tonight, the U.S. is now the world's leading producer of oil and natural gas, and we are projected to become a net energy exporter by 2026. Natural gas production is at an all-time high, and reserves are so large that they are predicted to meet domestic demand for almost a century.

Ohio alone reached new heights in October of 2017 as natural gas production reached 5.5 billion cubic feet per day. Simply put, we must do everything we can to take complete advantage of this abundance, and that includes LNG exports.

However, the window of opportunity for American LNG exports will not remain open indefinitely. The U.S. is in fierce competition with other LNG-exporting nations, and if America misses our opportunity to get into these international markets in a big way, our share of the global gas market could be greatly reduced. Subsequently, opportunities to support our national security and strengthen the energy security of our allies through American LNG will diminish as well.

So we must continue to elevate and promote the United States as a reliable source of natural gas onto the world market, which will diversify our friends' and allies' energy sources, greatly reduce their vulnerability to a single monopolistic supplier, and change the conversation at the table with the likes of Russia's Vladimir Putin.

Additionally, studies have found that LNG exports support thousands of American jobs, many of them within manufacturing. ICF International, Inc., estimates that these jobs will occur across the entire value chain, translating into millions of dollars in new wages for American workers.

In fact, the Department of Energy once again highlighted the benefits of LNG exports with a study it released just this past week. This study, which is in addition to four other studies commissioned by DOE since 2012, presented data that demonstrates just

how LNG exports are a net benefit to our economy.

Additionally, these exports increase our GDP. They lower the trade deficit. And it is for those reasons, these reasons, that I have led the effort to ensure the U.S. does all it can to take advantage of our ability to export natural gas.

Most recently, the Energy and Commerce Committee passed H.R. 4606, the Ensuring Small Scale LNG Certainty and Access Act, out of committee in a bipartisan fashion. I was proud to author this bill, which seeks to codify the Department of Energy's recent efforts to encourage exports of small volumes of natural gas.

There is a significant interest in potential for U.S. natural gas in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America, although not in the quantities that the current large-scale domestic exporting facilities were built to address via conventional liquefied natural gas tankers. H.R. 4606 will help the U.S. to act on these interests through greater regulatory certainty and a reduction in administrative regulatory burdens.

□ 1730

Now, when I first came to Congress in 2011, I worked hard to advance the idea that energy independence and security are the next great frontiers for America.

Today, energy independence and security have been replaced by a new concept. Mr. Speaker, you have heard Representative OLSON mention it, and you have heard Chairman WALDEN mention it. It is called energy dominance; and with it, all the global economic and geopolitical implications that come with being the king of the energy hill.

Such an energy vision that harnesses America's innovative exceptionalism will lead to new discoveries and technologies around domestic energy production, storage, distribution, and usage; and will lead us to greater economic prosperity and job growth.

I am excited to help further that vision which includes natural gas and LNG exports. I am excited for all the great opportunities that lie ahead for our country, and I appreciate the opportunity to speak on those benefits tonight.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Ohio. I also thank my dear friend for reminding me that Utica is the Marcellus in your district. It also reminded me over and over of the benefits the gentleman has had in Ohio. Rough parts in the country had some bad years, some down times. We have something that Texas called the Eagle Ford shale play that goes down from basically San Antonio to Laredo, a rough part of Texas, not very much growth there. When Zavala happened back home—I was down there about 3 years ago—a man got his first royalty check. He was thrilled. He goes to his bank to deposit, in his Sunday best

suit, and says to the guy there: Put this in my account.

His banker said: Great, I got it.

He puts it in his account. He comes back and says: Okay, that is 100,000—whoa, whoa, whoa—100,000? I thought it was 1,000.

His mind could not see the zeros, the periods, and the commas. We changed his world with American ingenuity.

The next person up is the former leader of this committee, the chairman, a proud Texas Aggie, and the single most strongest force to get the crude export ban lifted that was installed in 1975, Chairman JOE BARTON from Ennis, Texas.

Mr. BARTON. I thank Congressman OLSON for his leadership as vice chairman of the subcommittee and a tireless leader on behalf of energy in this country.

Also, I want to thank Congressman JOHNSON for his strong efforts and also compliment him on his playing in last week's Congressional Baseball Game. Congressman DUNCAN was also on the team and played well as shortstop.

Oil was discovered in Pennsylvania back in the mid-1800s. As the oil industry began to develop, they more and more would run into what we would today call associated gas. Every now and then while drilling for oil they would hit a well that didn't have any oil, but all it had was what today we call natural gas.

They didn't know what to do with it. They used the oil to make kerosene, lubricants, and home heating oil and things like that, but they didn't have a real purpose for natural gas. So they would just flare it, just literally in the field, light a match, put a flare pipe up and flare it. As time went on, they discovered that it had a fairly high Btu energy content, and they discovered a way to contain it, to store it, and to transport it through pipelines. Because it was a gas, it was not a liquid in its natural state, so while it was not as valuable as oil, it had enough value that it was worth looking for and worth keeping.

You rock along and you rock along, and in the 1950s and 1960s, we began to set price controls on natural gas in interstate commerce. The Federal Government would regulate the price and as a consequence people stopped looking for it, because it wasn't economic to find it unless you could find a well that you could sell in intrastate commerce, within the State.

When I ran for Congress in 1984, I ran on the platform of repealing what was called the Natural Gas Price Act of 1978 where Congress had set a price control on interstate natural gas in some cases as low as 2 cents per 1,000 cubic feet. Gas in the intrastate market, deep gas, was selling as high as \$15 per 1,000 cubic feet. There is a big difference between \$15 and 2 cents.

One of my first accomplishments in Congress under President George Herbert Bush, the first President Bush, was to see the NGPA repealed. The

Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 was repealed, and it was my amendment that did that. So I was very proud of that.

Rock along a few more years, and in 2005, I was chairman of the Agriculture Committee, and we were doing a major energy bill, the Natural Gas Policy Act of 2005. We did a lot of things in that bill. We felt at that time that there was going to be a shortage of natural gas in this country. Some of the States, States like Massachusetts, California, and New York, were trying to prohibit import terminals for natural gas, for liquefied natural gas, LNG, being built. The States would not give the permits.

So in the infinite wisdom of the Congress, we passed, as a part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, a section, an amendment to the bill, that gave ultimate decisionmaking authority to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC. Because we thought we were going to need to build these import terminals to import natural gas and the States were going to try to thwart it, we required a consultation with the States. The States had to be involved in the process, but the ultimate decision would be made by the Federal Government under the auspices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

A funny thing happened, Mr. Speaker. Some oil producers and gas producers down in Texas—one of them was a Texas Aggie, a guy named George Mitchell—decided that you had all these shale formations, and there were hydrocarbons in them, but they were like rock. Literally, if you look at a core sample of some of these shale formations, which you all had mentioned today in this Special Order, it is just like solid—it is solid rock.

George Mitchell and others decided, by golly, we can get natural gas out of that if we fracture the rock under pressure and create tiny little cracks where natural gas can escape from. Come to find out it worked. Then they also decided: Do you know what? Instead of drilling the classic vertical well, what if we bent the drill bit at a 90-degree angle and drilled horizontally?

Son of a gun if that didn't work too.

So the combination of hydraulic fracturing with horizontal drilling made all of these shale formations economic, and the result was an absolute bonanza of natural gas available at economically recoverable prices in the United States of America.

Congressman JOHNSON has mentioned some of the formations up in his part of the country, the Marcellus and the Utica. Of course, Mr. OLSON talked about the Eagle Ford shale down in Texas, the Barnett shale in my part of Texas. All over this country—Pennsylvania, even in New York, California, Colorado, Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, Arkansas, Ohio, and Kansas—there are shale formations—literally almost everywhere in the United States—and in most of those shale formations, it is economically recoverable

to drill for natural gas—and in some cases for oil also—but tonight we are talking about natural gas.

Funny things happened. We didn't need to import natural gas. We had so much of it, we could export it. We used that provision we put in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to begin to license, not import terminals but export terminals. Congressman OLSON, Congressman JOHNSON, and Chairman WALDEN have talked—and I am sure Mr. BUCSHON and Mr. DUNCAN will talk later—about the economic consequences of that. We are exporting or going to export about 2 billion cubic feet a day this year of liquified natural gas.

We are going to quadruple that in the next few years. If you look at the economic value of that, if you assume that you are selling it overseas about \$4 per 1,000 cubic feet, this year we will export three-quarters of a trillion dollars—a trillion dollars is a thousand billion. And not in the near future, we are going to be exporting several trillion dollars worth of natural gas every year, hundreds of thousands of jobs, just an economic—I don't know what you would call it—a bonanza. It is not a windfall because it is not luck. It is hard work. It is American ingenuity and American technology. It is revolutionizing the energy markets.

As has been pointed out, we are also beginning to export oil as a consequence of the ban being repealed for crude oil exports. That is a story for another Special Order.

The future for natural gas in this country as a source of fuel is unlimited. The economic benefits are obvious, but there is another benefit, and it is the ability to export freedom. When we export our natural gas, in many cases we are exchanging the source of the supply from a totalitarian—not quite totalitarian, but certainly not a totally democratic country like Russia—with a free country like the United States.

Now, it has been mentioned that Qatar, Algeria, and Saudi Arabia are also large exporters of natural gas, and they are allies of the United States, friends of the United States. But they don't have, as of yet, the purely democratic institutions, the totally free markets, and the free market capitalist system that we have here.

So when we send our natural gas overseas, we are also sending to the countries that use it, economic, and in some cases, political freedom. They cannot be held hostage to sources of supply that don't have the same democratic values that we do.

So, as Congressman JOHNSON pointed out earlier, the World Natural Gas Conference is here in Washington next week. A number of us will participate in that conference. It is really a tribute to the natural gas industry in the United States that they have used the American innovative spirit and American technology to create a product which brings benefits economically not

only here but overseas, and it really helps, in my opinion, put freedom in the driver's seat.

So this is a great Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman OLSON for leading it and the other members of the Energy and Commerce Committee for participating. I am proud to be a part of this group.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend from Texas. I want to thank my dear friend for also saying the name of George Mitchell. As you know, George Mitchell revolutionized our energy with hydraulic fracturing, directional drilling of the Barnett shale play by Fort Worth. It took Mr. Mitchell 35 or 36 wells to drill before the first one came back viable.

□ 1745

That money was private sector money, not money from D.C. The private sector made this revolution possible. I thank the gentleman for reminding us about what happened.

By the way, people think the gentleman's car may be there, the Corvette convertible, in the background. It looks like a 1959, maybe a 1963.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON), a good friend and also a doctor.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. OLSON and Mr. JOHNSON for hosting this Special Order.

Manufacturing is a key industry that helps drive Indiana's strong economy. According to the National Association of Manufacturers, Indiana manufacturers exported \$33.78 billion in goods and employed 16.8 percent of the Hoosier workforce in 2016. Much of the credit for such a strong manufacturing presence in Indiana is its relationship with natural gas.

In 2016, a comprehensive study was released detailing the positive effects that domestic natural gas brought to communities across the Nation. The study prepared by the National Association of Manufacturers provides examples of how natural gas is increasing the industrial strength and worldwide competitiveness of American companies.

Among the findings, the study said that the natural gas industry has added nearly 1.9 million total jobs to the economy and saved working American families an average of \$1,300 in disposable income in a single year through the production and use of shale gas.

According to the study, the U.S. supply of natural gas is projected to increase by 48 percent throughout the course of the next decade, resulting from the growing demand for this energy source.

During periods of high commodity prices, companies that rely on a high volume of natural gas to manufacture products can find it difficult to maintain a competitive advantage in an increasingly global market. However, an abundant supply of domestic natural gas has led to a reduction in natural gas prices. In turn, this increased af-

fordability is allowing these companies to increase their manufacturing output.

Further, the transportation of natural gas through an expanding national pipeline network means that this clean-burning natural resource is also becoming more accessible for American companies and presents a growing number of manufacturing opportunities.

Through the increased production of domestic shale gas alone, more than a million American jobs were created to help meet the demand for the energy source.

Additionally, the need for the manufacturing of new natural gas transmission pipelines across the Nation added several hundred thousand jobs on top of that. This surge in new jobs, coupled with the monetary profits gained from additional natural gas production, has led to a GDP hike of \$190 billion. Ultimately, this translates into more disposable income in the pockets of hardworking Americans.

Finally, the use of natural gas, both as a fuel source and a raw material, has resulted in environmental benefits as well, and we should not lose sight of that.

With the International World Gas Conference just 1 week away, I am proud of the continued growth and success of our domestic natural gas industry, which is helping to power this country's economic and manufacturing growth.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON), my cohort, to follow up the comments of Dr. BUCSHON as we transition to going overseas.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Texas mentioned it; Chairman WALDEN mentioned it; Mr. BARTON mentioned it. We should be celebrating, and that is what we are doing here tonight. All America should be celebrating the good fortune that we have to be blessed with such an abundance of natural gas.

In my home State of Ohio, and many other areas in the Midwest and Appalachia, the production of natural gas and its valuable liquid byproducts is providing a much-needed boost to our local economies.

Let me give you some figures. From 2011 to the end of May 2018, we had drops in unemployment in the counties that comprise my 18-county district by more than 48 percent. Some of those counties, especially the ones that have the heavy shale plays, have seen drops of unemployment upward of 60 percent. It is unbelievable.

In addition to the direct benefits, the natural gas industry also supports hundreds of thousands of manufacturing jobs across the country and supplies our industries with a reliable and affordable source of domestic energy.

Next week, as thousands of visitors and dignitaries from around the world arrive here in D.C. to attend the World Gas Conference, we should reflect on

our country's energy dominance—you have heard that term several times—and how that affects our standing on the world stage.

According to the Energy Information Administration, the United States has remained the world's top producer of natural gas ever since 2009, when we surpassed Russia in production levels.

Additionally, last year, we set a record in natural gas production, with gross withdrawals reaching almost 91 billion cubic feet per day.

I am telling you, Mr. Speaker, this is a big deal for America. It is charting the way for a new future of energy dominance and leverage not only in the economic energy markets, but also on the international stage.

So there are a lot of reasons to be optimistic about where America is going on the energy front because of natural gas.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 15 minutes remaining.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN), from the home of William Barret Travis, the commander of the Alamo.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for holding this Special Order and for recognizing South Carolina's role in helping the Republic of Texas.

You heard the words from the gentleman from Ohio about the economic impact on his State, and on America, with America's energy independence and the renaissance that we are experiencing.

In a tax reform committee hearing today, Chairman WALDEN talked about the economic benefits of tax reform on the energy sector, but also on America.

We are blessed in this country with natural resources. We have an abundance of natural gas.

What does an abundance of natural gas mean? That means that, last year, for the first time since 1957, we are an exporter of natural gas.

Now what does that mean not only for American producers that are providing the natural gas and the LNG terminals that are being built along the coastal regions in Houston and Louisiana—and, hopefully, one day in South Carolina, we will have an LNG terminal to help us play a part in that—but what does that mean for our allies and friends around the world? Well, just think about it.

Mexico is a huge importer of U.S. LNG. Not only are they importing natural gas through a pipeline from the plays down in Eagle Ford and Barnett in Texas, but they are also importing LNG.

We all know the situation in Venezuela. Venezuela is imploding. So many countries in South America, Latin America, are relying on Venezuelan energy. The Caribbean nations are relying on Venezuelan energy.

South American countries are relying on that.

If we can provide, through LNG exports, sustainable, reliable energy sources for the Caribbean nations, that is a game changer for them, the Panama Canal being a distribution hub for U.S. LNG to be distributed all through Latin America.

I was in Spain recently and talked with the Spanish folks. They want to be the LNG importer of American LNG so they can distribute across Western Europe so that Western Europe can be less reliant on Russian gas.

Europe is reliant on Russian gas, and Russia definitely has used the spigot for energy sources as a political tool against Europe. In fact, the Lithuanian President recently said this: "U.S. gas imports to Lithuania and other European countries is a game changer in the European gas market. This is an opportunity for Europe to end its addiction to Russian gas and ensure a secure, competitive, and diversified supply."

American LNG exported to our friends and allies around the world is a game changer for the geopolitics of energy. We can provide abundant natural gas that we have produced in this country to folks around the world and lessen their dependence on less reliable sources. American businesses will benefit from that, and our neighbors and friends will benefit from that. That is why it is so important.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for holding this Special Order tonight and for allowing me to speak about something I am very passionate about and that is using the abundant resources we have in this country to change lives around the globe.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, since I have known the gentleman, he has been a champion for American energy independence. Drill, baby, drill. Frack, baby, frack.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS), the chairman of the Environment Subcommittee.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, it is great to be here tonight to talk about something that we have talked about quite a bit. I am glad to see the gentleman has, obviously, the LNG terminal and the Lithuanian-flagged Independence. I also brought it down.

I don't have to be as complete in my comments, because I have heard the comments of easing and helping Europeans be independent of imported Russian natural gas.

Lithuania is on the Baltic Sea. I am the chairman of the Baltic Caucus. We have Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia. I have spent a lot of time watching them and encouraging them in their actual leadership of Eastern Europe. They set out in 2014 to become independent of Russian gas. So they went through the process of getting the LNG terminal.

I love the name. It is called the Independence so they can be independent and free. They have a history of being

extorted by the Russians in the crude oil department. There is a refinery there called Mazeikiu Nafta, which a U.S. company bought and then the Russians turned off the oil.

So those are the extortions and the concerns. Now what they have is the ability to compete in the open market. They had their first LNG gas come from the United States earlier in 2017. They now have an ability to negotiate for the best price, which helps a lot.

First of all, it helps their citizens. It helps, obviously, their businesses. It also helps the allies in surrounding countries. What they have now been able to do is negotiate through the Baltic region of pipelines and storage, and we have had talks, as you know, on smaller export LNG vessels to be able to get to smaller communities.

We are a party of all-of-the-above technology. We believe in having the energy resources compete for lower prices. I am glad the gentleman from Texas came down here and is expounding the virtues of freedom it has provided for the Baltic countries, and I look forward to continuing shipping U.S. liquefied natural gas, which helps our balance of trades and creates jobs in America, to our allies and friends around the globe.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, this was not coordinated. We came together with pictures of the Independence. But my friend knows this better than I do. How many people turn out—those are ordinary people—to watch a tanker come into port? Why are they coming out to watch that tanker? It is because they know that tanker is their freedom from Mr. Putin and Russia.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GAETZ). The gentleman from Texas has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON).

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

This is really about creating jobs on American soil, creating opportunities, literally, for our families to be able to have better prospects for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to be able to talk about, not only America, but the world's energy future. In my district of Colorado, we benefit from vast energy resources. In 2016, we learned that one of these resources, natural gas, has even greater potential than initially thought.

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The U.S. Geological Survey announced that the Mancos shale formation in Piceance Basin had the potential to be the second largest natural gas deposit in the United States. The abundance of natural gas in western Colorado puts us in the unique position to be able to create jobs here at home and also to supply American allies with reliable sources of energy well into the future.

For too long, our Nation's adversaries have supplied America's allies with energy resources. We cannot let countries like Russia lead in the global energy market when the U.S. has the resources to be able to supply countries in Europe and Asia with affordable and reliable energy.

Last year I called on the administration to examine a project that would allow for the U.S. to send LNG to Asian markets. The proposed Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline would transfer the natural gas from Piceance Basin in western Colorado to the Jordan Cove terminal in Coos Bay, Oregon.

The Jordan Cove terminal is estimated to have the capacity to be able to transport 7.8 million metric tons of LNG annually to the Pacific Northwest and Asia. Unfortunately, under the previous administration, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission denied the application for the Jordan Cove project, citing a lack of global demand. Not long after the application was denied, Jordan Cove procured an agreement for 75 percent of the pipeline's capacity, proving that there is demand for U.S. LNG in Asia.

It is my hope that FERC will soon approve the resubmitted application for the Jordan Cove project and we can bring good-paying jobs to western Colorado and send clean, affordable, and reliable energy to Asia.

As the U.S. works to advance technologies that decrease the environmental footprint of energy production, it cannot be ignored that countries like China and India continue to be some of the world's top polluters. We can responsibly develop U.S. natural gas resources to be able to benefit communities across our Nation and by transporting our energy resources to countries around the globe. The United States can have a measurable impact on the economies and environmental health of communities overseas.

The United States cannot sit back and let other countries lead the world into the energy future. The time for responsible development of natural gas is now and to be able to create jobs here at home.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Colorado for his comments. The gentleman is always welcome here. I thank my friend for pointing out the fact that, we think oil and gas in America, we think the coasts: the Gulf Coast, Pacific Coast, Atlantic Coast.

But my friend enlightened us. It is not just the coasts. It is the heart and soul of America, the interior, States like Colorado, Wyoming, North Dakota. All these States have shale plays. All these States are booming now with American energy production.

I would like to close with a couple comments and maybe take a tour of the world as it stands today.

We started exporting our natural gas less than 2 years ago. Right now, 29 countries have received American liquified natural gas. Those countries are Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados,

Brazil, Chile, China, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lithuania, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, UAE, and the UK.

American energy has touched the entire world. They are feeling our dominance in a very healthy and great way. We are giving them their freedom. Liquid American freedom is on the market right now.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to my Republican friends for pointing out the advantages of natural gas.

I might add that we had, in the last Congress, a hearing about what was the world's largest solar plant. This wasn't a plant that had solar panels. It had thousands of mirrors pointing to three different towers that would superheat the water, which would turn to steam and would drive turbines to produce electricity.

I have one article here. This was from February 2014. It talked about the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System, sprawling across roughly 5 square miles of Federal land; that is Mojave Desert area near the California-Nevada border. It had opened, and it was glorified. There was \$1.6 billion in Federal loans, \$600-some-odd million in grants to help them make their payments. Years later they paid 7 million—well, 2 years ago, they had paid back, I think they said, \$7 million of the \$2.2 billion.

Anyway, this article was about the world's largest solar plant scorching birds in the Nevada desert. From testimony we heard, apparently this solar plant, as birds would fly through the superheated sunlight, it would cause them to explode in flames, which is why the locals called them flamers.

Originally, they were not expecting to have to spend a lot of money cleaning mirrors with water. They thought it would just be dust. They didn't anticipate all the flaming bird debris—some of them endangered species, I am quite sure.

In a period of February through June, there were 290 of those flamers that exploded in flames and scattered their bird debris. Anyway, that was the solar side of it.

Since they had a contract to provide all this electricity and they had used up their \$2.2 billion, what do you do when you don't have \$2.2 billion and the ability to burn up endangered species and you don't have that kind of government grant? Well, you take just a little bit of money and you do what they did: you use natural gas—very environmentally friendly.

You can create a natural gas electrical plant very, very cheaply and make up for what the fire, the flaming birds, and all the other things did to slow down this great solar-powered plant. So there is a lot to be said for natural gas.

We did have a hearing yesterday, and one of the things I did not get to point out that I had highlighted but just didn't have enough time to ask the inspector general about, since his conclusion was, even though there were hundreds of pages that clearly reflected not just bias, but angry, hateful animus against Donald Trump, Republicans—but certainly Donald Trump—the IG, it seemed very clear to me, with hundreds of pages documenting the overwhelming bias among those who were supposed to be fair and impartial, figuratively depicting justice being blind, well, it was as if IG Horowitz decided: Well, we have got all this overwhelming bias, so that will make the Republicans happy. But I have got so many Democratic friends, I don't want to get them permanently upset with me, so I will just conclude that there is no evidence that bias affected the investigation at all.

Yet, in his own report, IG Horowitz said, and this is in the executive summary, page 9: "Most of the text messages raising such questions pertained to the Russia investigation, and the implication in some of these text messages, particularly Strzok's August 8 text message ('we'll stop' Candidate Trump from being elected) was that Strzok might be willing to take official action to impact a Presidential candidate's electoral prospects. Under these circumstances, we did not have confidence that Strzok's decision to prioritize the Russia investigation over following up on the Midyear"—the Hillary Clinton—"related investigative lead discovered on the Weiner laptop was free from bias."

Boy, is that an understatement. Here it is established beyond any reasonable doubt Strzok not only hated Trump, was trying to impress his mistress, but clearly, things he did showed their bias; and it is IG Horowitz's own words that it was Strzok's decision, heading up this investigation into Hillary Clinton's emails. Here they had tens or hundreds of thousands of emails that were found on the Anthony Weiner laptop, and it was Strzok's decision.

He had the authority to decide, and he did decide: We are not going to really investigate that. We are not going to make that a priority. We are going to push that aside and, instead, go after this so-called Russia investigation involving Trump.

That, even standing alone, is overwhelming evidence of bias that affected the investigation. I know Mr. Horowitz apparently was just trying to keep from making all of his Democratic friends mad, so he threw them this little gift: Clearly, there was all kinds of bias, but I will say in my conclusions that I couldn't find that bias affected